

I claim:

1. A holding system for a dispensing system for hardenable materials, the dispensing system comprising a dispensing gun and a product cartridge having a dispensing tip defining a dispensing opening, the holding system comprising:
  - a holding structure comprising a side wall and a bottom wall, where the structure defines a main opening and a holding chamber;
  - a plug projection extending from the bottom wall into the holding chamber; whereby
  - the holding chamber is sized and dimensioned to receive the product cartridge.
2. A holding system as recited in claim 1, in which at least one wall opening is formed in the holding structure adjacent to the plug projection.
3. A holding system as recited in claim 1, in which a plurality of guide ribs extend from the side wall into the holding chamber, where, when the product cartridge is placed into the holding chamber, at least one of the guide ribs engages a portion of the dispensing system to facilitate entry of the plug projection into the dispensing opening.
4. A holding system as recited in claim 3, in which the guide ribs define a central portion of the holding chamber and at least one perimeter portion of the holding chamber, where the guide ribs and at least one perimeter portion are sized, dimensioned, and located to allow the dispensing system to be displaced into the holding chamber such that the plug projection may enter the dispensing opening.

5. A holding system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a belt clip secured to the holding structure, where the belt clip allows the holding structure to be suspended from a belt worn by an operator.

5 6. A holding system as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least one guide rib extending from the side wall into the holding chamber, whereby, when the product cartridge is placed into the holding chamber, the guide rib is arranged to engage a portion of the dispensing system to facilitate entry of the plug projection into the dispensing opening.

10 7. A holding system as recited in claim 1, in which the holding structure comprises a barrel portion and a cap portion, where:

the barrel portion defines a portion of the side wall;

the cap portion defines a portion of the side wall and the bottom  
15 wall; and

the cap portion is detachably attached to the barrel portion to facilitate access to the plug projection.

8. A holding system as recited in claim 1, in which the holding  
20 structure comprises a container portion and a projection member, where:  
the container portion defines the side wall and the bottom wall; and  
the projection member is detachably attached to the container  
portion such that the projection member defines the plug  
projection.

25 9. A holding system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a support assembly attached to the holding structure, where the support assembly supports the holding structure in a desired orientation relative to a support surface.

10. A holding system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a support rack, where the support rack engages the holding structure to support the holding structure in a desired orientation relative to a support surface.

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11. A method of holding a dispensing system for hardenable materials, the dispensing system comprising a dispensing gun and a product cartridge having a dispensing tip defining a dispensing opening, the method comprising the steps of:

10 providing a holding structure comprising a side wall and a bottom wall, where the holding structure defines a main opening and a holding chamber and the holding chamber is sized and dimensioned to receive the product cartridge;  
forming a plug projection on the bottom wall of the holding  
15 structure, where the plug projection extends into the holding chamber; and  
forming at least one guide rib on the side wall of the holding structure, where the at least one guide rib extends into the holding chamber;  
20 displacing the product cartridge into the holding chamber such that the guide rib engages a portion of the dispensing system to facilitate entry of the plug projection into the dispensing opening.

25 12. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the steps of forming at least one wall opening in the holding structure adjacent to the plug projection.

30 13. A method as recited in claim 11, in which the step of providing the holding structure comprises the steps of:

providing a barrel portion and a cap portion; and  
detachably attaching the cap portion to the barrel portion such that  
the barrel portion defines a portion of the side wall and the  
cap portion defines a portion of the side wall and the bottom  
wall.

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14. A method as recited in claim 11, in which the step of  
providing the holding structure comprises the steps of:

providing a container portion and a projection member; and  
10 detachably attaching the projection member to the container portion  
such that the projection member defines the plug projection.

15. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the steps  
of:

15 attaching a support assembly to the holding structure; and  
arranging the support assembly in a retracted configuration; and  
arranging the support assembly in an extended configuration in  
which the support assembly supports the holding structure in  
a desired orientation relative to a support surface.

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16. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the steps  
of:

providing a support rack; and  
arranging the holding structure on the support rack such that the  
25 support rack supports the holding structure in a desired  
orientation relative to a support surface.

17. A holding system for a dispensing system for hardenable  
materials, the dispensing system comprising a dispensing gun and a  
30 product cartridge having a dispensing tip defining a dispensing opening,

the holding system comprising:

a holding structure comprising a side wall and a bottom wall, where  
the holding structure defines a main opening, a holding  
chamber, and at least one wall opening;

5 a plug projection extending from the bottom wall into the holding  
chamber; and

at least one guide rib extending from the side wall into the holding  
chamber; whereby

the holding chamber is sized and dimensioned to receive the  
10 product cartridge; and

when the product cartridge is placed into the holding chamber, the  
guide rib and the wall opening are arranged to facilitate entry  
of the plug projection into the dispensing opening.

15 18. A holding system as recited in claim 17, in which a plurality  
of guide ribs extend from the side wall into the holding chamber, where,  
when the product cartridge is placed into the holding chamber, at least  
one of the guide ribs engages a portion of the dispensing system to  
facilitate entry of the plug projection into the dispensing opening.

20 19. A holding system as recited in claim 18, in which the guide  
ribs define a central portion of the holding chamber and at least one  
perimeter portion of the holding chamber, where the guide ribs and at  
least one perimeter portion are sized, dimensioned, and located to allow  
25 the dispensing system to be displaced into the holding chamber such that  
the plug projection may enter the dispensing opening.

20. A holding system as recited in claim 17, in which the holding  
structure comprises a barrel portion and a cap portion, where:

30 the barrel portion defines a portion of the side wall;

the cap portion defines a portion of the side wall and the bottom wall; and

the cap portion is detachably attached to the barrel portion to facilitate access to the plug projection.

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21. A holding system as recited in claim 17, in which the holding structure comprises a container portion and a projection member, where:

the container portion defines the side wall and the bottom wall; and

the projection member is detachably attached to the container

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portion such that the projection member defines the plug projection.

22. A holding system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a support system comprising:

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a support projection formed on the holding structure;

first, second, and third brace projections extending from the holding structure; and

a support member; wherein

the support member engages the support projection to place the

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support system in a hanging configuration; and

the support member engages the brace projections to place the support system in a free-standing configuration.

23. A method as recited in claim 12, further comprising the steps

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of:

forming a support projection on the holding structure;

forming first, second, and third brace projections on the holding structure;

securing a support member to the support projection to place the

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support system in a hanging configuration; and

securing the support member to the brace projections to place the support system in a free-standing configuration.

24. A holding system as recited in claim 17, further comprising a  
5 support system comprising:  
a support projection formed on the holding structure;  
first, second, and third brace projections extending from the holding  
structure; and  
a support member; wherein  
10 the support member engages the support projection to place the  
support system in a hanging configuration; and  
the support member engages the brace projections to place the  
support system in a free-standing configuration.